

Ordinary, the price up beyond the comparable suits, and the garments would then attract more sportswear would ap- the market to hold down its but, it is not the purpose of power to let economic forces stage, for that would elimi- ticians from the cast. It is necessary for economic put on a performance be- scenes.

manufacturer, deluged with importuned with a price permitted to take, goes in g his 'basic' costs. He can- e the hourly wages of the or WLB-union combine is He can, however, add to nt some unnecessary and or gee-gaw, maybe some- esthetic purchaser will re- the garment as soon as at home. Let us say that w increases his "basic" ten to fifteen dollars. He mitted to charge, on the up, twenty-one dollars in- urteen. He has an addi- rofit of two dollars, since costs, except for the su- e-gaw, are increased.

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Of course, but you can- t the absurdity; it is too is costly to the workers es are not permitted to e market. It is costly to who must pay above a rket-price for their is costly to all of us in l for the enforcement hose personnel grows in to the restrictions which ease by the evasions they

reatest cost of this ab- ch pervades our entire the price it demands of ncy. In order to live by rguous rules of "public are forced to resort to ot only do we lose all

ders and treaties can completely literate them. It has no life except that which is breathed into it by imaginative men. It absorbs what

Faust paid to metaphysics. He ceases to be an individual and be- comes a thing. He ceases to be.

## Negroes Wanted

IT is now generally acknowledged that economic forces would have brought about the abolition of slavery in this country within a quarter of a century, and peacefully, without the Emancipation Act. As soon as all the free land of the country had been pre-empted, and no more "growin' land" was available for squatters, chattel slavery would have been found unprofitable. It is only on cheap land that slave labor can pay its keep. When land becomes valuable, and therefore inaccessible, it is better business to hire labor by the day, or on a share-cropping basis, for then there is no investment to consider during sickness or the declining productivity of old age. And then there is always an army of unemployed to beat wages down to the subsistence level.

Likewise, we see now that the late agitation for repeal of the poll tax was somewhat premature. What a lot of unnecessary fuss and fuming and filibustering! That political restriction is, like chattel slavery, succumbing to the pressure of economic events. Suddenly it dawns upon the statesmen of the South that this measure for holding the Negro in his "proper place" is quite undemocratic.

The answer, as with all political and social questions, is found in the economics of the situation. Black labor is getting scarce, and that scarcity is a threat to the economy of the South. Something must be done to prevent the exodus of those backs upon which an aristocracy has been carried so securely and for so long a time. Something must be done to

lure the cotton-picker and the scavenger-worker from the factory, and from the army at war's end, or the social order built on his labor will crumble. Higher wages are out of the question, for the job he filled was of a marginal character, and hand- production cannot compare with his highly-tooled production in the North. (All wages are paid by production). If wages cannot be offered as bait, what then? A mitigation of the political disabilities which kept him from pressing his discontent at the polls.

That is to say, the poll tax issue has come up in the South because the rulers of that section are again suffering under competition from the North. They hope to meet that competition by a more "liberal" attitude toward the lowly Negro. The North did not see fit to suppress the Negro politically because social pressure was enough to hold him down to its marginal jobs. The North needed him to do its dirty work, and so long as he kept to that field there was no necessity of depriving him of his vote; they could well afford to let him be a first-class citizen if he remained a second-class worker.

With the disintegration of our war economy the present problem of the Southern aristocracy will vanish; any job, even in the South, is better than none. But they will do well to continue with their "equalizing" program, because when the next breakdown floods the labor market with 20,000,000 or more unemployed, the Negro (or his white equivalent) may decide that it is better to starve with political equality than without it.